

GSA Link

Issue 8

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MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR



Regional Administrator Larry Trujillo

Lurita Alexis Doan Becomes 18th Administrator of General Services Administration

As you may already be aware, President George W. Bush nominated Mrs. Doan on April 6, 2006, and the Senate confirmed her nomination on May 26, 2006. Mrs. Doan is the first woman to serve as GSA's chief executive as a presidential nominee confirmed by the Senate. I want to take this opportunity to provide you with a few details on our new Administrator.

Mrs. Doan is already addressing goals that will impact our customers in the near future. One of the areas she plans to focus on is shortening the amount of time it takes for a business to get on a GSA schedule to 30 days. She is also committed to developing a more efficient and responsive workforce so the agency can better respond to national emergencies. "We at GSA are going to retool our abilities to respond to national emergencies and you can expect some real innovative ideas on this," she was quoted in Washington Technology on June 6, 2006.

I can assure you that Mrs. Doan plans to work closely with customers and GSA employees alike to restore GSA leadership as the premier contracting and service provider. "To be the best, we are going to need to improve all of our services and better understand and anticipate the requirements of our customers. But, we can do it. GSA can provide purchasing services quantifiably better, faster, and save taxpayer dollars. GSA must do a better job of proving this and enable government agencies to refocus scarce management and contracting resources on their core issues."

Most recently, Mrs. Doan served on the Presidential Search Committee to select Vassar College's 10th president, the Steering Committee for the Women's Majority Network founded by U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole, and the Steering Committee for the soon-to-be-built Shakespeare Theatre Company, Harman Center for the Arts in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Doan, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, was, until July 2005, the president, CEO, and sole owner of New Technology Management, Inc. (NTMI). She founded the technology company in 1990. NTMI provides professional and highly skilled installation and integration of border surveillance technology to the federal government. Before entering the field of computer technology, she taught at several colleges in the Washington, D.C. area and Louisiana.

Mrs. Doan is actively involved in the business community through participation in many trade associations, memberships in business organizations, and involvement in charitable community activities. Additionally, she provides support to the American Red Cross, the National Women's Business Center, the D.C. Rape Crisis Center, the United Negro College Fund, the American Women's Business Centers, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the Whitman Walker Clinic, among other groups.

Mrs. Doan holds a bachelor's degree from Vassar College and a master's degree in Renaissance Literature from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

She resides in Great Falls, Virginia., with her husband Doug and two daughters.

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COURTESY OF WEBER SHANDWICK

GSA Administrator Lurita Doan

OUR SERVICES

Regional Internal Web Site Offers New Tools to GSA Associates - Sarah Hoffman

Region 8 recently launched the newest version of its internal regional Web Site, known as "Insite." The site takes advantage of the latest technology to offer our associates more online tools and to facilitate communication better than ever before.

New features to the site include a common regional calendar and a user-friendly administrator interface. The calendar allows associates throughout the region to post and view organizational events, such as training or meetings. The administrator interface allows content editors to input text and images easily. It functions similarly to a word processor so virtually any associate can add content.

Another feature to the site allows users to log-in to their unique profile on the home page. Once the user has logged in, he or she can set preferences, automatically log-in to other internal systems, and update contact information. As Insite evolves, Region 8 hopes to take further advantage of this technology by allowing users to choose what information appears on their home page.

As with all of its Web Sites, GSA is striving to support our goal of a paperless work environment with Insite. The tools provided on this regional Web Site are helping us move in that direction through constantly evolving technology designed to meet our associates' specific needs. To see more of GSA's use of online technology, please visit our external Web Site at www.gsa.gov. For more information on this, please contact Sarah Hoffman at 303.236.8000 ext. 2325.

SUCCESS STORIES

GSA Expo is a Success - Cheryl Wakeman

The 12th Annual GSA International Products and Services EXPO closed on May 18, 2006. It was one of the most successful GSA Expos ever for our customers, partners, and GSA.

This year's EXPO drew 10,247 attendees, the second largest total attendance in EXPO history. This was a 20% increase over the 2005 EXPO, even with governmentwide travel constraints.

The right customers attended the EXPO, with more than 77% of them being warranted contracting officers or credit card holders. Attendees were able to choose from 207 training classes with Continuous Learning Points (Clips) and earned more than 16,570 hours of training credit (25% more than 2005). GSA certainly beat our stretch goal of 6,100 attendees with the final total of 6,262 national attendees and a Greater Southwest regional number of 2,786, the highest ever for Region 7 (the previous high mark was 2,447 at EXPO 2003).

Attendees also had the opportunity to visit with more than 600 different GSA partners in the exhibit hall, do comparative shopping, and network with product experts. Our partners reported hundreds of business leads totaling potential sales more than \$31 million, just from the EXPO.

GSA did some new things this year. The most important of which was bringing in Federal Technology Service (FTS) and Public Buildings Service (PBS) associates to work the show. We had more than 100 FTS associates help staff the training rooms, serve as Floor Ambassadors, and work in four of the 20 flagship kiosks providing information about GSA to our customers.

Deputy Administrator, Mr. David L. Bibb, as well as the portfolio managers, all gave the EXPO high marks in every aspect of the show. GSA also received numerous e-mails on the quality of the training and the EXPO from our customers.

Look for the 13th Annual GSA International Products and Services EXPO in Orlando, FL, during May, 2007.

SPOTLIGHT

A Job Well Done! - Beth Merrill



Brenda Haar, a South Dakota native, joined the General Services Administration's (GSA) Public Buildings Service (PBS), Southwest Region, Ft. Worth, Texas, after graduating from

the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque in June 1991. She was a Property Management Intern in Region 7 until she transferred to the Rocky Mountain Region in 1992. Over the years, she has been involved in various program areas of PBS, including real estate, concessions, contracting, building services, repair and alterations, and construction. She lived in Aberdeen, SD until 2000, when she moved to Rapid City, SD, shortly after becoming the Property Manager for South Dakota.

Brenda is responsible for the GSA/PBS inventory in South Dakota, which includes six GSA-owned federal buildings with more than 600,000 square feet of office space and approximately 60 GSA-leased facilities, located in numerous communities across the state totaling nearly 400,000 square feet of office space.

SPOTLIGHT

Meet the FTS Financial CZAR - *Debbra Deaver*

On any given day, it is not unusual to see a line of associates waiting to speak to one of the most influential managers in the Federal Technology Service. Penny Grout, Financial Management Director, has a clientele that includes FTS, the Regional Administrator's Office, Central Office, vendors, and customers.

The Regional Federal Technology Service Office relies on Penny to manage the daily financial activities, as well as forecast budget projections. She can be found spending hours in a day coordinating with Central Office's Chief Financial Office, or corresponding with key leaders in Region 8 and other regions.

GSA customers are familiar with the exceptional service that Penny provides to them. She is the principal manager of funds for GSA customers. In this role, she is responsible for reconciling payments and resolving billing issues. At times, she is contacted by customers throughout the country on technical matters relating to GSA financial management.



When a vendor has a problem with payments, the first person they contact is Penny, who provides them with the necessary information to resolve their issues. Many times she takes the extra time and consideration to advise them on the government contract financial systems, which can be quite confusing to the novice.

In spite of all demands placed on her, Penny manages to greet and respond to everyone with a warm smile and friendly disposition. The latter qualities enable her to be one of the most influential managers in Region 8 FTS.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Small Business Utilization Center Workshop

July 18 and August 15, 2006
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Denver Federal Center

Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Conference

August 17, 2006
Details to follow

Please contact
Kathy Peterson
at

(303) 236-7408

for more information about these events

SPOTLIGHT

Tapping Into Renewable Energy - *Kristi Leinen*

Charlie Rienhardt, the Public Buildings Service (PBS) Team 2 Property Manager, plays a key role in energy conservation at the Denver Federal Center (DFC). He keeps current with industry findings and regularly proposes new energy efficient projects to enhance the operation of the DFC. Most recently, Charlie helped replace 14 government vehicles with Neighborhood Electric Vehicles, significantly reducing operating costs and eliminating toxic vehicle emissions. He introduced and manages a \$2 million project that replaces outdated equipment, such as steam boilers with newer energy efficient ones. These efforts and others have resulted in a taxpayer savings, reducing the DFC gas bills by several hundred thousand dollars every year, while eliminating tons of toxic emissions.

Most recently, Charlie proposed and installed a fuel cell at the DFC that is utilized as a back-up generator for the Center's telecommunications system. This fuel cell is the first of its kind being used in the Rocky Mountain Region by GSA. It replaces an obsolete gasoline-powered generator and it is the largest fuel cell installed in Colorado in a government application.



As a result of Charlie's initiative, GSA has saved a considerable amount of money as well as become more environmentally friendly.

OUR SERVICES

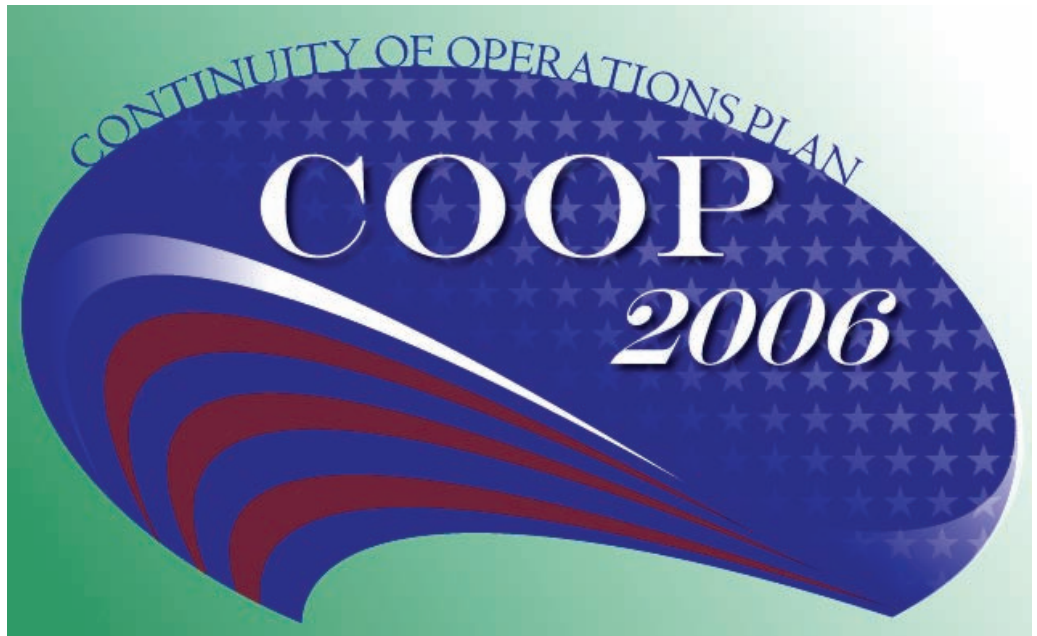
Continuity of Operations Planning - *Dennis Killinger*

Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) is a way agencies ensure they are able to continue their essential functions when their primary workplace becomes unusable. An agency's Emergency Relocation Group (ERG) deploys to a pre-designated alternate site and begins these essential functions within 12 hours of the emergency event. Federal Preparedness Circular 65 (FPC-65) provides guidance on this subject.

GSA assists emergency planners with advice and tools to help them before, during, and after an emergency occurs. Our Web Site, www.gsa.gov has an abundance of information ranging from alternate site selection to training opportunities for utilizing our Federal Acquisition Service programs. Other great Web sites include www.Firstgov.gov and www.Fema.gov, where training classes for emergency planners can be found through the Emergency Management Institute (EMI).

By far, the best way for agencies to locate a COOP alternate site is to use existing agency space in their field, training, or telework offices. These spaces usually are already set up with good communication and information technology equipment, as well as other office furnishings and facilities. Teleworking is a hot topic these days and definitely part of the future for the federal work environment, especially as we prepare for the possibility of a pandemic flu event.

Another cost effective and efficient way to locate and develop an alternate COOP site is to work with another agency on a memorandum of understanding (MOU), or agreement (MOA), that allows their agency to move in to a portion of their space for a short period of time (up to 30 days) if a COOP event occurs. Sometimes, agencies trade space this way, which results in a win-win situation. Conference rooms, classrooms, or auditoriums make great space, as well.



There are many training and workshop opportunities available to emergency planners that can help them prepare themselves and their agency for emergencies. A recent class held was the COOP Program Managers Course. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and GSA worked together to produce the COOP Program Managers Course. It teaches emergency managers the basics of continuity planning and how to put a complete plan together. This course, offered by FEMA, is given in locations throughout the region. The last class given was in Denver, Colorado, on May 30 - June 1, at Building 67 on the Denver Federal Center. This popular class was attended by more than 35 representatives from many federal agencies, some coming from as far away as Seattle, Washington, and Boise, Idaho. Subjects covered included: Essential Functions, Alternate Sites, Vital Records, Devolution, Reconstitution, and many others.

Another great opportunity for safety, security, and emergency planners to work together is through the Denver Intergovernmental COOP Working Group (DICWG). This group meets quarterly at various locations throughout the Denver-metro area, and it is an excellent chance for people to meet and network with fellow COOP planners. In addition, the Denver Federal Executive Board led by Mr. Larry Grandison, has been active in promoting and planning many COOP events for several years. The 2003-2005 COOP exercises received national recognition. A new event, coming in February of 2007, is the Catastrophic Incident Management Workshop. You will not want to miss this two-day event including several guest speakers who are experts in contingency planning.

As the world situation continues to change and disasters and emergencies seem to occur more frequently, it is important for all of us to be prepared. It is recommended that you put together a family plan and then practice it. Go to www.ready.gov for some help in planning this. Our families are more important than anything else in the world, and we all want to take care of them, especially in emergency situations. We are all in this together, so please help one another, share what you can, and be positive. Your agency's emergency planner can contact our Regional Emergency Coordinator Dennis Killinger (303-236-2811) for assistance.

DFC NEWS



Denver Federal Center SITE PLAN STUDY

The Denver Federal Center's Evolution - *Lisa Morpurgo*

May 2006 marked another exciting month for the Denver Federal Center Site Plan Study Project. The General Services Administration and the project team held a series of meetings over a three day period for federal tenants and the local community to review work in progress. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) scoping process, GSA received many comments, ideas, and suggestions relating to the Denver Federal Center Master Plan from more than 350 attendees.

The project team is now working on developing the Draft Site Plan Study and Draft EIS, with a target of Fall 2006 for public review and comment. The Site Plan Study Project started in the fall of 2005 with data collection and analysis. It was introduced to federal tenants and the community at the first open house events in early March 2005.

The plan is designed to establish a long term vision - 20 years or more - for the Federal Center. The overall project goals are to:

- Safeguard the interests and meet the current and future needs of federal tenants
- Maximize the value and appeal of the Federal Center
- Establish a vision for a dynamic, mixed-use center
- Capitalize on the premier location and campus setting to attract new users, both federal and non-federal

Over the next 18 months, there will be numerous opportunities to learn more and get involved - the ultimate success of this project depends on it!

For more information, please visit the project Web Site at www.gsa.gov/dfcsiteplan, or contact Lisa Morpurgo, Senior Project Planner, at 303-236-8000 ext. 5039 or e-mail at dfcsiteplan@gsa.gov.

SUCCESS STORIES

Green Grabs Gold - *Janice Dinkel*

Courthouse Square is a recent five-story, 80,000 square foot office structure built in downtown Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The building is designed to receive a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Rating from the U.S. Green Building Council, and is on track to be the first LEED certified building in South Dakota. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

GSA is committed to incorporate sustainable design into all of its building projects. You can find many of such features demonstrated in this building. For example, GSA included innovative use of renewable energy by using:

- Ground water that heats/cools the building and returns to the earth cleaner than it started
- A large percentage of local and recycled materials
- Natural day lighting
- Underground parking
- Increased ozone protection, etc.

Operating costs are expected to be reduced by more than 50% and savings of \$60,000 or more per year are expected. Also, through the use of efficient plumbing fixtures, more than 590,000 gallons of potable water will be conserved every year, which would fill 1½ public swimming pools.

One of the goals set for Courthouse Square was to establish the project as a regional leader in sustainable design, encouraging the development of similar projects in the area. To help achieve this, an education and outreach program is planned to explain sustainable features of the project and the importance of sustainability. For more information, please contact Janice Dinkel at 303.236.8000 ext. 2335.